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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR NUECES COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, September 29, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today the Nueces County Fairgrounds was selected to receive \$495,000 through the agency's Community Facilities Grant Program. The grant funds will be used to construct a parking lot and access road to the fairgrounds.

"This funding will provide Nueces County with assistance in building a modern facility for youth agricultural fairs, rodeos, community meetings and farm shows," said Daniel. "USDA Rural Development is committed to providing assistance to rural towns and communities to help them provide valuable services to their residents."

In Fiscal Year 2005, a total of \$991,000 in Community Facility Grants was obligated in Texas. Funds are used to enhance the quality of life for residents of rural areas by providing the means for construction, expansion, or enhancement of community facilities, telecommunication and distance education programs, and water and waste disposal systems. Since 2001, USDA Rural Development Community Programs have awarded \$1.8 billion for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 1.16 million households in the process.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 to serve Texas' more than 3.6 million rural residents. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Alice Local Office at (361) 668-0453, Extension 4, or visit our website at http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.